



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held August 1, 2006, the Board took the following action:

76-B

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“As part of this Board’s consideration of alternatives to address the pressing issues facing our custody system, it is critical that we deal head on with the issue of early release in a manner that will increase the amount of sentence an inmate serves.

“The Sheriff’s Department custody master plan contains a recommendation to expand the electronic monitoring program to 2,000 inmates. This recommendation would help alleviate the problem of inmates choosing jail over electronic monitoring due to the knowledge that in many cases they would serve only 10% of their jail time instead of 100% of their sentence on electronic monitoring. Given the Sheriff’s limited staffed jail bed availability, the Department needs to have at its disposal the ability to utilize a mandated non-voluntary electronic monitoring alternative sentencing sanction. If the courts and the Sheriff had this tool even small time criminals would know that there will be repercussions for all crimes.

“Under current California State law participation in electronic monitoring cannot be mandated by the courts or the Sheriff. A change in State law that would take the discretion to choose this program away from the perpetrator and give it to the courts, sheriff, or probation would enable the Sheriff’s Department to start the process of moving toward ending the early release program and ensure that more inmates serve a longer sentence in either a jail bed or under the supervision of the Sheriff’s Department on electronic monitoring. It is fully possible that if this Board adopts scenario VI and more jail beds become available over the course of the next two to three years that more inmates would voluntarily choose electronic monitoring over spending more than 10% time in jail. In the meantime, we need to seek the legal authority to maintain sentencing alternatives as an option to early release.”

(Continued on Page 2)

76-B (Continued)

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer and County Counsel to draft legislation to amend State law to allow for the courts, the Sheriff and the Probation Department to mandate an electronic monitoring sentence, while also keeping the voluntary provision in place;
2. Instructed the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to seek an author for the bill; and
3. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board with monthly progress reports.

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